

REMARKS IN HONOR OF U.S. ARMY
SPECIALIST MICHAEL C. ROBERTS

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 13, 2011

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Army Specialist Michael C. Roberts who was killed on August 27, 2011 in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom while serving with the 561st Military Police Company, based at Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

Specialist Roberts was 23 years old and was from Watauga, Texas. He graduated from Richland High School in Fort Worth, Texas in 2006 where he played tuba in the band and was a varsity wrestler. Specialist Roberts was the youngest of three brothers to join the Army when he enlisted in November 2007. According to his brother Patrick, Specialist Roberts relished the opportunity to "have a positive influence." Specialist Roberts' first tour was to Iraq in 2009 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom as a communications specialist with the 1st Cavalry Division based at Fort Hood, Texas. He re-enlisted in 2010 and transferred to Fort Campbell, Kentucky in February 2011.

Specialist Roberts was on his second tour when he was killed. He lost his life to a vehicle borne improvised explosive device that detonated near his patrol. Specialist Roberts was protecting a secured area outside a police station when a vehicle attempted to breach the area. Specialist Roberts engaged the enemy, forcing them to detonate the device prematurely, and preventing them from injuring or killing a large number of fellow soldiers. Specialist Roberts was recognized for his actions by being awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and Combat Action Badge. Our nation can never repay the debt we owe to this brave man and his family, who understand firsthand the meaning of service and sacrifice. Specialist Roberts represents the best values of this nation and of the United States Army.

Specialist Roberts is fondly remembered as someone who lived life to the fullest, laughed every day, was extremely generous, and stood strongly for what he believed.

I wish to extend my condolences to Specialist Roberts' parents, David and Kathy, and his brothers Patrick and Brian, and hope that they continue to find solace in his lasting impact on both this grateful nation and his fellow soldiers.

MARKING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORGANIZED CAMP IN THE UNITED STATES

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 13, 2011

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, this summer marked the one-hundred-and-fiftieth anniversary of organized camp in the United States. Summer camps throughout the nation provide valuable educational experiences and offer the chance for children from all different backgrounds to spend time outdoors, connect with their peers, and learn life-long skills. In the summer of 1861, William Frederick Gunn

and his wife Abigail organized the first summer camp in America by taking a group of kids into the wilderness along the Long Island Sound for two weeks. Since then, thousands of camps have been founded, and 150 years later there are over 12,000 summer camps nationwide. While times have changed, the purpose of summer camp has remained the same—to provide our youth with havens in which to grow and learn in nature.

In the State of Maine, we have nearly 200 camps—most of which are accredited by the American Camp Association—including sleep-away camps, day camps, and specialty camps. More than 18 of those have been operating for more than 100 years. In 1902, Wyonegonic Camps in Denmark, Maine opened its doors to girls and, today, remains the oldest continuously operating camp for girls in the country. Girls' camps play a pivotal role in young women's lives—providing settings in which they can grow confidence and develop as bright young women. Also in 1902, Pine Island Camp for boys opened in Belgrade Lakes, Maine and remains the oldest continuously operating camp for boys in the state. In 1908, two camps were opened by non-profit agencies in Maine: West End House Camp in East Parsonfield and Camp Jordan YMCA in Ellsworth.

Camp is a special place where kids get a chance to re-create themselves, develop independence, be physically active, and learn new skills outside of the traditional school setting. And, through exposure to new experiences, friendships with kids from other states and around the globe, campers gain perspectives on their own lives that augment their education during the school year. Camps are also a place to build lasting friendships—a home away from home where the camp community becomes a second family. In a fast changing world, summer camps continue to be a mainstay of American society—providing kids a time for quiet reflection away from the pressures of growing up in a modern world. As millions of summer campers head back to start another year of school, let's remember the valuable role that summer camps play in the year-round education of children.

REMEMBERING LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR DR. ROY K. DOKKA

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday September 13, 2011

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I want to offer condolences upon the passing of Dr. Roy K. Dokka, professor and researcher at Louisiana State University, who died unexpectedly on August 1, 2011. His contributions as an educator in LSU's College of Engineering were invaluable, and he will be dearly missed by his family, peers, and the community.

Dr. Dokka held the Fruehan Family Professorship in Engineering, and was responsible for groundbreaking research during his tenure at LSU. Instrumental in establishing LSU's Center for Geoinformatics (C4G), Dokka served as the center's first Executive Director.

Since 2001, researchers at C4G have been dedicated to studying the causes of coastal erosion in Louisiana and other important geo-

graphic relationships. Use of the Global Positioning System (GPS), along with geodetic leveling, enables C4G engineers to closely study these relationships, providing essential data in understanding many geographic problems our state faces.

Dokka's research contributions continued in 2002 when he spearheaded a cooperative with Louisiana Spatial Reference Center (LSRC) and the National Geodetic Survey-NOAA. Together, this alliance works on creating an advanced positioning system for Louisiana.

Dokka also worked with the state legislature to ensure the efficient usage and application of C4G's resources across Louisiana and provide them with the knowledge to better understand and prevent coastal erosion.

Thanks to the contributions of Dr. Dokka, LSU's C4G will continue to be a valuable asset for government, industry and higher education. The center's work is especially timely considering the opportunities available through Geoinformatics to provide critical information and roadway assessment.

LSU acknowledges the importance of the research activity taking place at C4G, and has expressed its intention to continue and grow the institution in the absence of its founding executive director.

Dr. Dokka left an admirable legacy in his profession, and will be remembered as a vital member of the engineering community and a distinguished citizen of the State of Louisiana.

APPEAL TIME CLARIFICATION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 12, 2011

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2633, the Appeal Time Clarification Act of 2011. This legislation provides an important clarification to the law.

Under the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure, the law allows 60 days to file a notice of appeal for civil cases if the United States or a federal officer is a party. However, the legislation fails to disclose whether the 60 day period applies to current and/or former federal employees who are sued in an individual capacity.

The Appeal Time Clarification Act of 2011 performs as a means to clarify the discrepancies created by the initial policy. It essentially amends the federal judicial code requirements concerning the time limits for the filing of appeals to any judgment, order, or decree in a civil action, suit, or proceeding.

According to the Congressional Budget Office Cost Estimate, as ordered by the House Committee on the Judiciary, H.R. 2633 would have no significant impact on the federal budget. The CBO estimates that enacting the bill "would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply."

There are no solid concerns that have been raised in the House regarding this legislation. However, the Senate Judiciary Committee has expressed its observation that the bill's language regarding individual capacity lawsuits

may be read in such a way as to exclude those cases where the individual is represented by the Senate Legal Counsel or the House Office of General Counsel rather than the Department of Justice (for example, in a lawsuit between the legislative and executive branches concerning executive privilege).

Summarily H.R. 2633 extends the 60 day filing deadline to any civil action, suit, or proceeding in which one of the parties is "a current or former U.S. officer or employee sued in an individual capacity for an act. This amendment provides the government with the time it needs to review the case, determine whether an appeal should be taken, and secure the Solicitor General's approval for that appeal. These same policy reasons apply in a case where the United States—through DOJ or some other federal litigating entity—decides to represent a current or former officer or employee sued in his or her individual capacity.

I applaud my friend from Michigan, Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee for introducing this important legislation to protect past and present federal employees. I urge my colleagues to lend their support to the bill.

IN RECOGNITION OF VICKI AND
DAVID PORTMAN

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 13, 2011

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Vicki and David Portman, the 2011 Jewish Family and Children's Service of Greater Monmouth County's Tribute Dinner honorees. Mr. and Mrs. Portman have dedicated their lives to serving the community and are truly worthy of this body's recognition.

Mrs. Vicki Portman was compelled by childhood memories to give back to the community. Instilled with the basic tenets of Judaism, Mrs. Portman has been involved in the Jewish Federation of Monmouth County, where she chaired the Business and Professional Women Foundation and served as Vice President of Campaign as well as Allocations. Most recently, Mrs. Portman has been involved with the New York United Jewish Appeal (UJA) Federation and continues to hold several positions with the Manhattan Women's Campaign. Mrs. Portman is presently a member of Women's Executive Circle (WEC) and on the Board of Directors of UJA New York Federation, as well as many other prestigious organizations. She also sits on the Ethiopian Taskforce. Mrs. Portman earned her Bachelor of Arts from New York University and a Master's degree in Speech Pathology from Seton Hall University. She also completed a graduate certificate program in Training, Development & Organizational Diagnosis through the New School's Graduate School of Management. Mrs. Portman's professional endeavors led her to teach high school Public Speaking and English and she also served as school speech therapist. In 1988 she began Executive Communication, a communications consulting organization which she continues to manage today.

Mr. David Portman is the second of three children who were born and raised near Atlantic City, New Jersey. Mr. Portman's values of community, motivation to succeed and the de-

sire to share his success with those less fortunate are evident through his various activities. He touts an impressive history of involvement and volunteerism in the Jewish Community, most notably filling the role of Building Fund Chairman and Vice President of Temple Beth Torah. Mr. Portman served two terms as President of the Monmouth County Jewish Federation and also held many other notable positions with this organization. Similarly, he is recognized for his role as Monmouth County Representative to New Jersey Board of Federations and was subsequently appointed Commissioner for Economic Development between Israel and New Jersey for his impressive actions. He has also served on the National Campaign Cabinet for Israel Bonds and as Vice President and on the Board of Directors for Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS). Mr. Portman is the current Chairman of Development for the Home for the Aged of the Workman's Circle organization.

The Portmans share a passion for travel and often relate their travel destinations to their desire to further enhance their knowledge of Jewish history and culture around the world. Dedicated to protecting human rights and civil rights issues worldwide, Mr. and Mrs. Portman are lifetime members of the Holocaust, Genocide and Human Rights Education Center. They have also arranged separate scholarship funds to financially support a student's trip to Israel. The Portmans are the proud parents of three sons, Howard, Lee and Billy and have welcomed into their family their daughter-in-law Emily and three grandchildren, Ava, Max and Easy. Their continuous commitment to the Jewish community is only surpassed by their devotion to family.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Vicki and David Portman for their outstanding service to the community and congratulate them on the honor bestowed by the Jewish Family and Children's Service of Greater Monmouth County. Their philanthropic efforts are a shining example of what hard work and dedication can accomplish.

SPEECH BY JEFFREY BLEICH, U.S.
AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRALIA

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 13, 2011

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share a speech given by Jeffrey Bleich U.S. Ambassador to Australia commemorating the 10th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 attacks. Mr. Bleich's speech eloquently addresses the tragedy of that day, our struggle to come to terms with what happened and our resiliency in the years since 9/11. The harrowing experience of his friend, Jeff Thompson, reminds us that while September 11th left an indelible mark on the nation, it was also a deeply personal tragedy for the thousands of Americans in New York City, Washington, DC, Pennsylvania and elsewhere, who felt the full brunt of the violence of that day on their families and friends. I am pleased to enter the Ambassador's full speech into the RECORD today.

SEPTEMBER 11TH 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION SPEECH JEFFREY BLEICH U.S. AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRALIA

The Honorable Ms. Julia Gillard, Prime Minister of Australia and Mr. Tim

Mathieson, Your Excellencies, Ambassadors and High Commissioners, of more than 70 nations, The Honorable Mr. Tony Abbott, Leader of the Opposition, Ms. Katy Gallagher, Chief Minister of the Australian Capital Territory, General David Hurley, Chief of the Australian Defence Force and Mrs. Linda Hurley, Members of the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia, Chiefs of the Australian Defense Force Services, Senior Members of the Australian Public Service, Members of Australian First Responder Services, and welcome to our visiting international dignitary, the Honourable Mr. Peter MacKay, Canadian Minister of National Defence, Distinguished guests, friends and family from many countries.

We come together today to remember a terrible day; but even more to consider the days that have followed and that will follow.

It has been ten years since September 11.

The world that we imagined on September 10, 2001 all changed—changed utterly—in 24 hours. That morning of 9/11, thousands of men and women, Americans, Australians, and people of dozens of nationalities, Christians, Jews, Muslims, awoke thinking it was a normal day. In New York City they headed to work in the World Trade Towers. In Boston, Newark, and D.C., they rushed off to the airport to catch the early morning flight to San Francisco. In New York, firefighters and police officers—men and women—kissed their spouses or partners goodbye as they left for the station. They all had their plans for the day: their meetings, who they would see at lunch, friends, appointments, errands with children. The world they imagined that morning, like the life they imagined, was one filled with many more days and years. They assumed life in all its fullness, whatever that life was. The ideals they held, the religion they practiced, the people they chose as their friends, their political views, the words they chose to say.

We don't refer to these things usually as "freedom of religion," "freedom of speech," "freedom of association," "equality," or "liberty." We just call it living. We call it life. And likely so did the people on that day too.

But that casual belief changed on September 11. These men and women—sons, daughters, fathers, mothers—were killed that day for simply living as they did, and where they did. People from over 90 nations were killed because they chose to live in a land that celebrated these values.

For those of us who survived, it was also a day we never imagined. Wherever we were, in countries around the world, we imagined a normal day as well. None of us expected the world to stop, and for us to watch in horror as people—people like us—perished before our very eyes, in flames, and ash, and rubble.

Faced suddenly with a world that we'd never imagined, the stark question for each of us to answer was this: "what do we do now?"

If people like us were going to be killed for living as we did, what would we do now?

One of the people asking this question was my college roommate, Jeff Thompson. Jeff and his girlfriend lived in New York, where he worked in finance and also sometimes went on the road to play with his band.

On September 11, he was at work, on one of the top floors of the Second World Trade tower, when the first plane hit Tower One. Seeing the destruction next door, he started downstairs, but no one followed. He was halfway down, when the second plane hit—above him—cutting off all of his colleagues; everyone he knew from work. The stairwells filled with people as they marched down to get out of the building, while firefighters and police struggled to get up. Jeff was barely out of the tower when it all collapsed behind him. He was covered in dust, and blood, and tears.